

Minutes
**Labor-Management Advisory Council on
Workers' Compensation**

April 17, 2009

1:15-2:00 pm

Advisory council members present: Lt. Governor Bohlinger, Jason Miller, Bob Worthington, Jerry Keck, Don Judge, Dan Lee, Riley Johnson, Doug Buman, Bill Dahlgren, and Annette Hoffman.

Core team members present: Diana Ferriter, George Kochman, and Judy Bovington

Others present: Carl Kochman, Montana State Fund and WorkSafeMT

- I. Agenda was approved.
- II. Minutes of April 3, 2009, were approved as written.
- III. Status of WorkSafeMT funding in Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) budget bill
The 3 FTE and \$1 million funding are still in the budget as this point. The conference committee is scheduled today at 3:00. Jerry will attend in case there are any questions from committee members.
- IV. Status of Other Workers' Compensation Bills
HB598 – Riley suggested the contract exemption in this bill be placed on LMAC's next work plan. The Council felt it could be studied under the language in the amended version of SJ30.

SJ30 – Jerry, Jason and Bob met with House Business & Labor Committee Chairman Wilson about SJ30 and the meeting resulted in amendments offered by the Committee and passed out of the Committee. Jason explained the Committee wanted to handle the duplication in SJ30 and SJ33 within the Committee and they reviewed SJ33 before they drafted the amendments to SJ30.

Don read the amendments made to SJ30 and there was discussion about the need for more meetings during the next two years to complete the work referred to the Council by SJ30.

Riley explained the process the Legislature uses to determine which study resolutions will be funded. There was general agreement that a workers' compensation study would probably be funded.

- V. WorkSafeMT Update
George Kochman gave the update. She reported 14 focus groups with about 139 people were held to get input on the proposed strategic plan. The Board will consider the input at the next meeting on May 6th and finalize the strategic plan. The first draft of the operational plan that outlines the work the staff will be doing for the next year will also be presented at that meeting. Cinda Seys was hired as the Safety professional and will begin work on Monday, the 20th. She has been a member of the Safety Committee. Kim McKelvey of ALPS has been contracted to manage and develop the Board and Committees until we know that the 3 new FTE will be approved by the legislature then a staff person will be hired to take over that work. George handed out a new look for the Montana Safety Culture Act brochure and Council members made suggestions for distribution: posted on the web, developed as a power point presentation, distributed to new businesses from the Secretary of State's office, economic development authorities, the Chambers, etc. WorksafeMT's budget includes the printing for this type of publication. Riley questioned how employers comply with the documentation requirements of

the Act. George explained they will develop tools for employers to use for documentation. George reported there will be a new award as part of the Governor's Safety Award this year. An award will be given for the most innovative safety strategy implemented by an employer. The planning committee will compile the strategies nominated and publish a brochure and possibly create a video of the winning strategy. George also handed out drafts of business cards, letterhead, and magnetic car signs as information to the Council members.

Riley moved and Jason seconded George's proposal that the core team draft a process to be used by WorksafeMT to bring issues to the Council for their approval. The motion passed.

VI. Public comment

Marv Jordan questioned where Cinda Seys lives. George advised she lives in Butte and will be working in Helena during her training period.

VII. Next Steps

Anne will work with the Lt. Governor to determine the best day of the week to have future meetings. Jerry suggested a meeting on Wednesday or Thursday would work well if coordinated with WorksafeMT so they could meet on Tuesday or Wednesday and then report to the LMAC. Everyone checked their calendars and the first in person meeting will be held on Friday, May 22nd. Anne will make the arrangements for the time and place. Doug Buman can not attend that day.

Don moved and Bob seconded that Department staff draft a preliminary work plan for the next two years that can be reviewed and finalized at the May 22nd meeting. The motion passed.

If another telephone conference is needed before the May meeting, Anne will arrange it.